

**Preliminary Assessment Report: Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation**  
**Appendix 1: Site History**

230692



The Site was undeveloped land when it was purchased by Robert Joseph and Jennie C. Bottoni in 1955, who founded Unimatic Manufacturing Corporation. Unimatic constructed the original building in 1955 to serve as a tool shop. A map included in Appendix B shows the years of construction of the various portions of the building. In c. 1960, Unimatic constructed the northeast portion of the building and began to manufacture aluminum die castings. These operations continued until September 2001.

Around 1970, a manufacturing room, offices, second floor mezzanine and finished product storage areas were added to the west side of the original building and a rear loading dock was added to the northern end of the building. After 1970, several minor modifications to the building were completed, including a steel roof constructed in 1974, and electrical and plumbing work in 1981 and 1984.

In Unimatic's typical aluminum die casting process, aluminum alloy was heated to approximately 1,200<sup>0</sup> F in natural gas-powered kilns. The molten aluminum alloy was then injected into a closed vessel (known as a casting die or mold) under high pressure and at a controlled temperature. Prior to injection with the molten alloy, the heated mold is coated with mineral spirits mixed with a semi-solid product to create a mold spray called a mold release agent. This release agent prevented the aluminum from adhering to the molds. The spraying of the lubricants was a fairly messy process, and resulted in the spillage of lubricants on the floor. In 1987, Unimatic began using commercially-made lubricants instead of mineral spirits to pre-coat the molds.

Aluminum die-casting molds or dies are run in cold chamber die-casting machines. These machines are operated at the required temperatures and pressures to produce a quality part to net-shape or near net-shape specifications. Some of the more typical applications for the aluminum die castings produced at Unimatic have been enclosures for the electronics industry, hand and power tools for home and industry and general hardware appliances.